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## Silk Mill Hands Refuse To Return

### Many Strikers Ignore Order, Seek Trip To Nanking

By this morning 80 per cent of the 2000 workers who walked out several days ago in protest against the police action in raiding a union headquarters and arresting some 40 members were still refusing to resume work. In the western mill area where four factories are affected, some 600 of the 800 strikers remain idle, while in Chinese controlled territory only 350 of the 1000 workers of the Mayar China Wei and number one mills are back at work.

Strikers this morning stated that they had sent 15 delegates to Soochow to prepare demands which will be submitted to the Government at Nanking, this method of holding meetings out of town having been adopted following the strong action taken by the local Chinese police against unions recently. Workers do not intend to resume until the Government has forced employers to carry out a compromise worked out by the Bureau of Social Welfare some time ago whereby old employees would be re-employed.

Meanwhile, further arrests have been made among the strikers. One woman was arrested in Nantao in front of the Mayar number one mill yesterday morning for alleged intimidation towards loyal workers while two men were taken into police custody this morning.

A short-lived strike took place at the Tuvoda Cotton Mill because of the dismissal of 60 porters when a new contractor was employed. The walkout took place yesterday, but by this morning the old porters and contractor were back again. However, the men are making demands for increased wages now and other improvements in working conditions.

The Hwa Foong Flour Mill where serious rioting took place several days ago when new hands were hired to replace the strikers was working normally this morning after a compromise solution to the trouble had been reached through the mediation of the local Tangpu. Dismissed hands are each to receive a gratuity of \$30. Some 80 men are affected by this decision, but the sum has not been paid as yet. When the mill reopened this morning, 180 workers reported.

Delivery coolies of the China Times of 130 Avenue Edward VII who declared a strike several days ago in protest against the dismissal of two of their number were back at work today, greatly reduced. The two were allegedly dismissed because they also delivered papers for rival newspaper offices.

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## Silk Strikers Return To Jobs

### Six Hundred At Work Today, Concluding Lengthy Strike

With their ringleaders detained at the Garrison Commander's Headquarters in Langhwa and facing strict disciplinary action threatened by the Bureau of Police and Social Affairs and the City Kuomintang, more than 600 strikers of the Mayar Silk Weaving Factory returned to work at 6 o'clock this morning, concluding a walkout of many weeks marked by disorders and clashes with police.

The number of workers who resumed operation this morning represents but 50 per cent of the usual complement. Some strikers defied the orders while many are understood to be returning to Shanghai from their native homes and are expected to return within the next few days. The authorities had previously decreed that all of them must return before 6 o'clock this morning and those who failed to show up are automatically dismissed. All was quiet when the workers resumed this morning under supervision of large squads of Chinese police officers.

The conclusion of the silk weaving strike followed the onslaught on the Third District (Western Shanghai) Silk Weavers' Union off Brunan Road Wednesday night. That night, 40 alleged ringleaders of the labor agitation were arrested, bringing the total number of arrests in connection with the Mayar dispute to 80. Thirty-six of them were handed over to the Garrison Commander's Headquarters today to face the military tribunal. Four others were released. The 10 previously arrested agitators are also in the Langhwa headquarters.

More than 100 workers, all members of the Union, yesterday called on the City Kuomintang Headquarters and requested the return of the union fittings, documents and furniture confiscated by the police Wednesday night. The Tangpu officials promised to discuss the issue with the police authorities.

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## **Ultimatum Is Issued Against Silk Mill Strikers Here**

**All Idle Workers Must Return To-morrow Or Face  
"Resignation Of Their Own Accord"; High  
Authorities Are Confident Over Idea**

With the arrest yesterday morning of the five ringleaders of local Chinese silk filature workers, who are alleged to have been behind all strikes called in recent months and who have long been wanted by the local courts on charges of intimidation and other offences, and more than 10 of their assistants, local Chinese authorities are confident that they have the situation in hand and have issued an order requiring all idle silk filature workers to return to work to-morrow before 8 o'clock. Those workers who refuse to do so will be held to have "resigned of their own accord."

According to a reliable Chinese source, Wang Hou, alias Wang Shih-shung, for whom an order of arrest was issued by the Shanghai City Government long ago, is one of the Chinese silk filatures have been troubled by numerous strikes, riots, and demonstrations is among the arrested persons. The other arrested ringleaders of the strikes are G. S. Sheng, F. Y. Hu, Tu Fah-sen and Yi Yeo-yung, all of whom have been serving with Wang as officers of the Third District Silk Filature Workers Union in the extra-settlement road near Brennan Road. Wang is secretary of the union. They are all being detained at the headquarters of the Nantao Police Bureau.

The arrest of these men has evidently caused uneasiness among striking silk filature workers especially those of the Mayar Silk Works whose 10 factories were all forced to be closed more than a week ago on account of labour unrest. More than 1,000 of them yesterday morning protested against the arrest of their leaders and they besieged the Westfield Village Sub-Station of the Nantao Bureau Police demanding the release of the arrested men. They also demanded the return of the documents seized at their union headquarters following the arrests. They were finally persuaded to leave

the place by the police from Nantao headquarters, who explained to the workers that they had gone to the wrong station to petition.

### **Warning Order**

In a strongly worded order jointly issued by the Nantao Kuomintang Headquarters and Bureau of Social Affairs yesterday morning workers were warned against further disturbances and required to return to work before 8 p.m. to-morrow. The order further stated that the Mayar Silk Works Company had been ordered to carry out an order issued previously by the Bureau regarding the treatment of workers including the increase of wages.

The order was issued at the instance of a petition from the management of the Mayar Silk Works in which a detailed report on a riot staged in the Nos. 1 and 2 factories of the company in Nantao which forced the management to close all affiliated factories. It was alleged in this petition that on June 13 when about 400 workers had returned to work under official supervision some workers who were allegedly abetted by ringleaders of strikes went to the company on the pretext of returning to work but secretly forced those willing to work to quit. The stay-in strikers were also forced to fast as no food was available in the factories.

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# Silk Filature Workers' Unions Smashed, Chiefs Are Held Under Arrest

Disbandment Ordered By Bureau Of Social Affairs Following Recent Disturbances; New Groups To Be Organized Under Kuomintang Leadership

## WORKERS "RUN WILD" HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR SHANGHAI LABOUR TROUBLES

Strong measures to quell growing disorganization in Shanghai's silk industry were taken yesterday by the Bureau of Social Affairs when an order was issued smashing up the silk filature workers' unions which were behind the recent strikes and disturbances at various mills here, and which are declared to have been directly responsible for the closure of numerous Chinese filatures and a costly burden to those which have managed to survive the disturbances.

Coincident with the disbandment of the old unions, Kuomintang Headquarters were requested to immediately organize another silk filature workers' union under Kuomintang leadership.

Leaders of the old unions were arrested immediately the closure order was issued according to Chinese reports last night, and a number of them appeared in the First Special District Court yesterday and were sentenced on sabotage counts.

Mixed by inefficient union leaders, the silk filature workers had run wild, declared officials at the Civic Centre yesterday, and they had therefore been plunged into the recent labour troubles and disturbances.

### Three Unions Closed

The decision calling for the closure of the unions was reached at a recent joint meeting held by officials of the Bureau of Social Affairs, Nantao Kuomintang Headquarters and Nantao Police Bureau. In accordance with this decision the Bureau issued the order yesterday.

The order affected three unions, the Preparatory Committee of the First District Silk Filature Workers' Union, the Third District Silk Weaving Factory Workers' Union and the Fourth District Silk Filature Workers' Union.

The Fourth District Silk Filature Workers' union, which is located in the Trunkadeo district, where many silk filatures are located, it will be recalled, was the scene of disturbances just over a week ago. Twenty-one leaders and members of the union were arrested by the Tulin Road police and subsequently sentenced by the First Special District Court. They were accused of having maintained a worker who was up with arms in the premises were on June 1, 1937.

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1937

## Powerful Labour Ring Is Aim Of Agitators Throughout Shanghai

Police Check Silk Weavers' Organ Through Arrest  
Of 21 Unionists For Intimidation And  
Illegal Detention; Trial Today

PROMINENT FIGURES WERE BEHIND THE  
SCENES TO WIELD NEW POWER

### Special to "The Shanghai Times"

Behind the scenes of the widespread labour disturbances which have recently wracked Shanghai's cotton, silk, and other industries—cotton, silk, transportation—are groups of agitators who are working for revolutionary changes which will affect the lives of millions of people. For years, these agitators, who are working for revolutionary changes which will affect the lives of millions of people, have been active in the city over a long period of time, are aiming at the formation of a highly potent weapon—a labour organisation which will embrace all fields from the small, home-industry type of business to factories employing thousands of hands.

This revolution, for it is a movement founded on force, has been long in coming. Modern industrial methods are comparatively new in China, and the labour organisations up to the present have generally been separate groups within factories, or at most controlling certain districts. This was due to the fact that much labour was formerly obtained through individual contractors, who were responsible for a certain group of hands. When strikes occurred, Settlement Police were usually able to settle the matter through mediating between the factory management and the labour contractor.

### Changing Scene

But the scene has changed radically since the turbulent days of 1925 to 1927. The Chinese Government has come to be recognised as the paramount authority for maintaining law and order, and the Bureau of Social Affairs is its chief agent. Labour is more permanently fixed than in the early days, but with more certainty of employment there has also come a more embracing union movement. At present the silk weavers, the cotton weavers, the cigarette workers and others all belong to a rather loose union organization. The separate branches act independently in strikes, but all contribute to a common fund and especially for the support of parading groups of bands. This is a situation which probably will not exist for long, the authorities believe, for the advantages to be gained by these who stand against

opulate great masses of workers are too great to be overlooked.

### Police Check Silk Union

Yulin Road Police last week hit at what is believed to be the hotbed of agitation among silk weavers in the Eastern District and arrested 21 leaders on charges of intimidation and illegal detention. They will face the First Special District Court this afternoon.

These men are leaders of one of seven silk weavers' organizations. They are not professional agitators or gangsters, but they are rapidly assuming the former status by virtue of their easy, parasitic existence. Such men are ripe material for sub-bosses under a central directing board.

Fifteen of this group are being charged with intimidation, while the remaining six are also charged with having forced Tsang Ziangling, a weaver, to the union in Chingling Road on May 12, where they hung a sign around his neck, reading "a running dog of the Ching Shing Silk Filature and a traitor to the union."

They took a photograph of him kneeling with this sign around his neck, but police have located the photographer and it is believed that he will be able to identify the ringleaders.

Another private action of a similar sort is pending against members of the same organization by an official of the Bureau of Social Affairs. They kidnapped him as he was trying to make mediatory overtures to strikers of the Ching Shing Filature.

### Heavy Sentence Unlikely

These offenders can get a maximum of three years in gaol or a fine of \$300 under the charges for which they are held, but it is thought unlikely that any severe sentence will be passed.

But it is not the individual cases which bother the authorities seriously—it is the steady move towards union combination which undoubtedly will play a decisive part in labour relations of the future.

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THE CHINA PRESS, WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1937

## Scores Hurt In Mill Brawl

Scores of workers were injured, one seriously, during a fight between two rival gangs of employees of the Mayar No. 10 Silk Mill at Pa Tse Chiao, Chapel, at 11 o'clock Monday night.

The fight was started when one faction of the workers advocating resumption of work announced that they were going to welcome back Mr. Wang Tau-chiu, superintendent of the mill. This aroused the hostility of the other faction that stood for continuation of the strike.

Both gangs of workers, totaling more than 500, assembled in front of the mill and during the free-for-all that ensued, one of the workers, Wang Pei, was seriously injured in the head, back and arm, while many others received slight bruises.

The fight lasted until 3.50 a.m. yesterday morning when a squad of police from the Chapel District Bureau of Police arrived on the scene and broke them up.

The faction siding with the management of the mill won the day when later yesterday morning more than two-thirds of the employees resumed work.

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THE SHANGHAI TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1937

## Lack Of Materials Causes Mayar Works To Close

Shortage Attributed To Strike Of Workers Of No. 1  
Factory, Who Demand 10 Per Cent. Wage  
Increase; Nanking Petitioned

Owing to lack of raw materials, as a result of the strike called by the workers preparing silk for weavers, the 10 factories of the Mayar Silk Works, the biggest of its kind in Shanghai, were forced to close their doors yesterday. The management of the flature has telegraphically petitioned the Nanking authorities to intervene as local officials have made futile mediatory efforts.

The closed factories had depended on the No. 1 factory in Da Pu Chiao, Nantao, for refining silk. Workers of this factory called a general strike three days ago explaining that they had failed to get a 10 per cent. increase in wages as ordered by the Bureau of Social Affairs, to which the management took exception. Since all other factories have used up their silk prepared by the No. 1 factory they could not continue their operations, according to the petition.

With the exception of the No. 4 and No. 9 factories which are located in Ferry Road and Siccawei Road respectively, all other factories of the flature are located in Chapel and Nantao. A notice announcing the closure of the factories was posted by the management last night alleging that the responsibility for the wholesale

closure of factories should rest with the striking workers.

In their petition to Nanking, the management alleged that local officials had failed to arrest and punish the ringleaders of the various strikes suffered by silk flatures, and that as a result the ringleaders have become more malicious than ever. The strike called by workers of the No. 1 factory which, it was alleged, was instigated by the ringleaders, might deal a death blow to the flature, it was asserted. Similar petitions have been sent to the Bureau of Social Affairs and Nantao Kuomintang Headquarters explaining the reasons for the wholesale closure of factories.

Fresh labour troubles are looming in practically every silk flature and weaving factory as managements have refused to increase wages by 10 per cent. as was ordered. The flature managers have brought their grievances to the direct attention of the Shanghai City Government instead of the Bureau of Social Affairs, which ordered the increase trying to meet the striking workers halfway. The Bureau officials, however, still continued their mediatory efforts yesterday in persuading the strikers of the No. 10 factory of the flature to return to work.

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## Silk Filature Walk-Out Eases

### Majority Of Laborers Return To Work; 6500 Still Out

With the exception of the Ching Sing Mill, all silk filatures in Shanghai which went on strike last Wednesday were open today and the majority of silk workers were back at their jobs.

Twenty-five hundred workers of the Sing Yue Factory where trouble broke out about ten days ago when the management declared a lockout for the purpose of installing new machinery were still not working. The management of the mill has posted a notice asking all workers to resume their jobs tomorrow morning. This does not include the 66 workers whose dismissal has been a bone of contention between mill hand and employers.

The strike in the Tien Tsang mill continues as workers are demanding increased wages. Conditions in the Kung Yik mill, scene of the strike's most serious trouble, remains unchanged and the management is still enforcing a lockout.

Two alleged leaders of the 700 workers of the Mei Fong silk strikers who attempted to get the factory to cease work last Saturday were up before the First District Court this morning on a charge of committing an offence against public order. One of these men, Tseu Fuh-socng, is an alleged union leader.

It is understood that representatives of both the local Tangpu and the Bureau of Social Affairs called on Police and requested that the prisoners be released and the charge against them dropped in order that further trouble might not be precipitated. This request was denied.

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## STRIKES IN SHANGHAI

Information previously in the possession of those whose business it is to know such things that labour unrest was likely to be manifest in Shanghai this Spring is unfortunately proving to be true, for at the moment there are over 12,000 silk filature workers and about 3,000 cotton workers out on strike. It is pleasing, however, to learn that there are no immediate signs of the strikes spreading to any great extent, although, of course, it all depends on how the present situation is handled and whether wise counsels are going to prevail over the machinations of agitators. The use of that word "agitators" is deliberate in this connection, and is not a word we should use in reference to legitimate labour organizers—the responsible heads of properly-constituted Unions. In the case of both the silk workers and those employed at the Kung Yik Cotton Mill the demands being made are unreasonable, and have been so judged by the Bureau of Social Affairs which makes it its business to advise on the settlement of labour disputes. What has happened at the Kung Yik mill clearly illustrates the point. Although the workers there are better paid than in some other cotton mills of Shanghai and although a good many of them are known to be satisfied with conditions, the demand has been made that a blanket 20 per cent. increase in pay and some other concessions should be granted. The Social Bureau has advised that a 10 per cent. increase would be a more reasonable request, and the owners, viewing the attitude of the strikers as unreasonable, have been forced to declare what amounts to a counter lock-out, saying they will keep the mill shut until moderation is shown. In the case of the silk workers, regarding whom there has been trouble for a considerable time past, the Social Bureau recently "ordered" the workers back to work on terms which were held to be reasonably fair pending the discussion of other points, but there was the usual behind-scenes intimidation and a general strike of filature workers was declared—or rather, imposed—on Tuesday night.

As was stated in this column yesterday in another connection, we are all in favour of labour being given its just and fair share of the profits of industry, and we also hold the belief, as must everyone else who is acquainted with conditions among the labouring masses of this country, that China is in need of nothing else quite so much as the raising of the economic status of the people. And if, because of a bumper cotton crop, rising world prices and a good demand for cotton products, the mills of Shanghai are in more profitable operation than they have been for a good while past, it is only fair that the workers, who have also been suffering by the depression, should be given an encouraging deal. But that is quite a different matter from the unrest which is being provoked by so-called labour leaders who are trying to be noticed by means of strikes and not by

unconnected with Moscow. The history of Moscow is, perhaps, all too often trotted out by labour-scarred employers—but definite evidence is in the hands of official circles here to show that there is a direct link between current labour agitation and both financial and ideological inspiration from the city of the Kremlin. The knowledge that labour unrest was being planned has proved to be true, and the corollary already indicated must, unfortunately, be regarded as also true. Preachers are at work, organization lies

in the background, and any sign of weakness in the face of such intimation would undoubtedly be further exploited and the general situation made to go from bad to worse. For this reason it is to be hoped that the Chinese authorities, who have shown commendable strength in this matter of unreasonable labour demands in the recent past, will continue to give their support on the side of fair-minded employers and do their own counter-propaganda in the interests of industrial harmony. We do not think there is any need for alarmist fears, but there is need for wise counsel and the exercise of good guidance by those best placed to offer it. One can only hope that the present strikes will be quickly settled before the disaffection spreads to other concerns.

All over the world within recent months there has been agitation and movement by labour for better conditions. France has been through a serious phase of sit-down strikes, America is going through it now, there are labour demands in Britain, and in practically every country of the world there is ferment on the labour side of industry. The use of the strike weapon for the securing of fair conditions is a perfectly legitimate thing, but a very big question has been raised of late by the growing connection between organized labour and Leftist politics of an ideological character. It is also not without misgiving that vast power is seen passing into the hands of the heads of great omnibus Unions, at the back of whose fingers many thousands of workers can paralyze the basic industry of a country. It is not only a question of wages which is being raised, but into whose hands is to rest the dominant political power.

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# Silk Workers Parade Halted In Yangtzepoo

Union Men Try To Levy  
Tax On Management  
Of Mei Foong Co.

DEMONSTRATION SAID  
LAST FLARE-UP

Two Leaders Arrested And  
Detained; Meantime 25  
Per Cent. Start Work

A parade of 750 workers from various silk filatures in Yangtzepoo and neighbouring Chinese territory briefly upset expectations of police yesterday afternoon that the strike situation had been entirely settled by the stern order of the Bureau of Social Affairs on Friday evening, ordering the workers to resume, pending negotiations between Chinese authorities and the various factory managements.

The parade, which started from Thorburn Road, was ill-timed, however, for the workers reached the Mei Foong Mill in Haichow Road at the same time as did police units, and the union delegates who demanded from the management a contribution towards their organization fund, were given short shrift. Two union men were arrested and the rest dispersed peacefully.

Promised a 10 per cent. increase in wages if they would return to work without further agitation, some 25 per cent. of silk workers in the three municipal areas were at their jobs yesterday morning. The remainder were expected to be working by Monday morning, following the usual last-minute argument which usually accompanies such a settlement. Of the 223 silk factories which have been on strike since Wednesday, 60 in the Settlement were operating yesterday and four in the French Concession.

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The Yangtzepoo parade started

at 3.30 and reached the Mei Foong Mill at about 4 p.m. to find police and several heavy loads of the Russian S.V.C. members standing by. Several delegates got into the mill and demanded that the management pay something towards the union fund. They met with a flat refusal and were ejected.

There was some amount of argument outside the mill gates and then the crowd, upon advice of police, dispersed without noticeable trouble. Meantime, the 100 workers of the Mei Foong Company, a small organization, adjourned to their compound and were lectured by their foremen. The Reserve Unit stood by for several hours but no further demonstrations were attempted.

Police believed that the parade was merely a last flare-up, a sort of "face-saving" arrangement by union leaders before complying with the official order by Chinese authorities.

Strike conditions still attend the Kiang Yih Cotton Mill, some of disturbances on Thursday, and 2,000 workers were still locked out yesterday. The Sing Yee Cotton Mill has not been able to persuade its 2,000 workers to return, while the A.B.C. Mill is also closed. One hundred workers on the night shift at the Tien Tsung Shui in Pootung joined an equal number of day shift workers yesterday. They are demanding that a recent pay cut be cancelled and that an increase be granted.

## 12,000 Silk Strikers Still Restive Here Yesterday

No Major Disturbances Reported, But Requests Are Sent To Bureau; Silk Merchants Take Stand And Urge Harsh Strike Block

Refusing to call off their general strike, more than 12,000 workers of all Chinese silk factories in Shanghai remained restive yesterday. They held meetings and sent petitioners to various Government organizations asking that the Bureau of Social Affairs rescind its order offering a 10 per cent. increase of wages as a condition for settling the strike that must be accepted by silk merchants and their striking workers. No major disturbances were reported.

While the strikers demanded a 20 per cent. wage increase, the

Bureau officials tried to meet them half-way in their order, which also forbade workers to demand anything in connection with the question of wage increase. The petitioning workers, numbering more than 100, went to the Bureau in the morning, but Mr. Hsu Yar-fu, a department head, told them that it was impossible for the Government to withdraw the order. A written petition was also sent to the Bureau.

Silk merchants also took a firm attitude. They held meetings yesterday to discuss the Bureau order and, as a result, they petitioned the Bureau requesting the officials to stop mediation and to employ "effective" methods to prevent workers from calling strikes. They also appealed the police of the three Municipalities asking that their property be protected.

### Official Promise Given

At a press interview, Mr. Hsu Yar-fu stated that the workers should return to work after having been officially promised a wage increase of 10 per cent. Should they defy the order, they would be dealt with according to law. He regretted that the Bureau order, which was issued after careful consideration had been given by Mr. Pan Kung-shan, Commissioner of the Bureau, had been misunderstood. Besides promising the wage increase, the workers were given other financial advantages, including payment of wages on national holidays, etc.

Eight men arrested for disturbances in the Wayside District of the Settlement on Wednesday were brought before the First District Court yesterday and charged with offence against public order. One of the men proved to be a carpenter, and claimed to have had nothing to do with stoning a policeman and attempting to intimidate workers. Hearings were remanded until next week.

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# Mill Strikers Stone Police In Two Riots

Clash With Settlement  
Officers In Wayside;  
Chinese In Nantao

DEADLOCK CONTINUED  
AT CONFERENCE

Ten Per Cent. Increase Is  
Rejected By Workers In  
Meeting Last Night

Striking silk filature workers clashed with both Settlement and Chinese police in brushes yesterday morning, but the remainder of the day passed off without serious incident and late last night the situation in the affected areas was reported to be satisfactory. The clash with the Settlement police occurred at Wayside, where a smart response was made to a call put in by a Chinese constable when he was attacked by strikers, and eight of the rioters were arrested.

The incident took place at about 9.30 a.m., when some 200 strikers assembled outside the Yung Tsong Silk Filature on East Yuhang Road and attempted to intimidate workers there. A Chinese policeman intervened and was man-handled by a group of the strikers, being further attacked when he tried to put in a call for assistance from Wayside Station. The call was eventually put through and the rioters were dispersed after meeting the police with a barrage of stones and rubbish.

Almost all of the 200 strikers located at the International Settlement, Nantao, and Chongming yesterday as a result of the general strike called by the silk filature workers union at 12 o'clock on Tuesday evening following the breakdown of the negotiations with the employers for the 10 per cent. wage increase.

Only a few of the small filatures continued in operation and in specially converted houses were reported to be working yesterday, and even these were ordered to stop by the 12,000 striking male and female workers.

Two Chinese police officers were hurt and their uniforms torn, many strikers received minor injuries and two trucks were badly damaged early yesterday morning when more than 500 striking workers tried to force their way into the main mill of the Mayar Silk Works in Rui Ting Road, Nantao, to persuade workers there to join in the walk-out. Seventeen were arrested but were released after official mediatory efforts had been made.

Trouble flared up late on Tuesday night when the representatives of all Shanghai silk filatures decided to declare a general strike. They were alleged to have tried to force men remaining at work to join them and at about 1 a.m. yesterday more than 500 of their number gathered around the main mill of the Mayar Silk Works. Despite the efforts of the police they tried to break into the mill.

Two trucks loaded with goods were trying to leave the mill when the workers attempted to force their way into the mill. The chauffeurs of the trucks were man-handled and the trucks were badly damaged with stones and other weapons.

A policeman tried to stop the workers but was driven away and his uniform was torn in several places. Another officer who was hurt had his coat stolen, it was reported.

There was every possibility that the trouble would be augmented as official efforts to settle the matter again resulted in a deadlock last night. Officials of the Bureau of Social Affairs and Nantao Kuomintang Headquarters tried to meet the striking workers half-way by requesting that their wages be increased by 10 per cent. and that they should return to work to-day.

This offer however, did not satisfy the strikers, who at a meeting held yesterday morning demanded an increase of at least 20 per cent.

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# 15,000 Workers Strike In Local Silk Mills; Wage Increase Wanted

**General Walk-Out Called Last Night After Parleys Fail**

**MORE EXPECTED TO JOIN TODAY**

**130 Plants All Over City Affected; New Talks Slated Today**

Climaxing two weeks of intermittent labor trouble punctuated by sporadic bursts of violence, some 15,000 workers of Shanghai silk weaving factories last night called a general strike.

The walk-out, which ranks as the most widespread in the year's labor disputes, had already caused the shut-down of more than 130 mills at midnight last night.

A large body of day-shift workers, whose exact number could not be determined last night, is expected to join the tie-up this morning.

The decision to call the general strike was reached late yesterday evening following a deadlocked "peace conference," which broke up without achieving a compromise after 6 p.m.

**Mills All Over City**

As a result of the serious labor situation arising out of the strike, the Ministry of Industry last night instructed the Bureau of Social Affairs of Greater Shanghai to work for an early settlement of the trouble. A special representative of the Ministry was last night reported to be coming here to take part in the negotiations.

Silk mills affected by the tie-up last night are scattered in the city's three municipalities. British and Chinese police last night were standing by, watching for any sign of disturbance. No violence was reported, however.

Last night's general strike came as a result of a long-standing dispute originating from the workers' demands for shorter hours, increased wages and general improvement in treatment.

Less than two weeks ago, strikes in individual factories broke out. At that time, it was evident that unless some urgent steps were taken the situation would lead to a general flare-up.

To smooth over the trouble, a mediation body was formed, consisting of the workers' and employers' delegates, as well as officials of the Bureau of Social Affairs and Kuomintang Headquarters. This organization was charged with the duty of working out a compromise satisfactory to both the workers and the mill owners.

**Wages Main Point**

Successive "peace conferences" were held but at none of these meetings could an agreement be worked out. As far as could be learned, the crux of the dispute seemed to lie on the wage increase question.

On the employers' side, it was offered that all flature workers getting at present wages below 50 cents a day would be given a 15 per cent raise. Those receiving more than 60 cents per day were not to be given any increase.

This offer was flatly rejected by the workers' delegates who demanded the following schedule for wage increases:

- (a) Those getting below \$1 per day—30 per cent raise.
- (b) Those getting above \$1 per day—15 per cent raise.
- (c) Those getting \$2 per day—10 per cent raise.

Officials of the Bureau and the Party who mediated failed to get the two opposing parties to modify their demands and offer. The conference was deadlocked.

When news of failure of the "peace conference" spread among the mill workers, emergency meetings were called to study tactics to be taken. At 9.30 o'clock, the call for a general strike was issued and mills in the city closed one after the other.

**To Confer Today**

Officials of the striking mill hands, together with representatives from various mills, are scheduled to hold an emergency conference this morning.

Court No. 5 at the First Special District Court yesterday was crowded with persons coming to watch the fate of the three silk flature workers arrested Monday by Yangtsapoo police. Their heads were swathed in bandages.

One of the men had hurled a large rock at Probationary Sergeant M. O. Lovell and then tried to out-sprint the officer. It seems that the latter represented the police in the athletic games here in 1935 and he had little difficulty in catching up with the worker.

All three were charged with offenses against public order and were each fined \$30.

A short skirmish between police of Yangtsapoo and hawkers occurred yesterday morning near Yangtsang Road as a result of the hawkers' failure to comply with a police request to remove their merchandise because licenses had not been obtained. The trouble was quickly finished and the hawkers dispersed from the scene.

20928

## General Strike Of Filatures

Situation In Local Silk  
Industry Serious As  
Talks Deadlocked

A decision to call a general strike of all local silk filatures was arrived at at a meeting of representatives of workers in the various factories held at 9 o'clock yesterday evening, following the breakdown of negotiations with employers held earlier in the day at the Bureau of Social Affairs.

Notwithstanding the fact that a general strike of all filatures was called at 8 o'clock, as late as midnight a number of factories in the Yulin Road and Yangtsepoo districts were reported to be operating with night shifts.

An attempt to reach a settlement was made yesterday by representatives of workers and employers, when discussions were held in the presence of Mr. Pan Kung-chan, Commissioner of Social Affairs. Thirty common demands on a basis of collective bargaining were presented. An agreement was reached on almost all the demands with the exception of that concerning a wages increase.

The trouble in silk filatures in the eastern area had been brewing for over a week and resulted in disturbances on Sunday and Monday afternoons. Three strikers, who stoned officers of Yangtsepoo Police Station on Monday, when the latter were dispersing them, were fined \$30 each in the First District Court yesterday morning.

Most of the union workers were on strike yesterday, but doubts were expressed in certain quarters whether non-union workers would join in the general walk-out.

6-1

## Silk Mill Hands Stone Police in Eastern District

New Trouble Quelled and  
Three Men Arrested

### OTHER WORKERS WALK TO CHAPEL

Another clash between silk factory workers and the Settlement Police occurred in the Eastern district yesterday afternoon, resulting in the dispersal of about 500 persons by uniformed men and detectives from the Yangtszepoo Station after the mob had stoned the Police. No-one was seriously injured in the encounter, which resulted in the Police charging the crowd with batons at Ying Ziang Kong, near Linching Road.

The 500 workers, principally strikers, went to the Yuan Ling Silk-weaving Factory, 484 Linching Road, at 1 p.m. in order to persuade the workers there to join their union. The strikers surrounded the grounds and when the Police arrived they threw stones, slightly injuring several policemen. The crowd was dispersed effectively at Ying Ziang Kong, near by, and no attempt was made by the demonstrators to form again. Three men were arrested and taken to Yangtszepoo Station.

#### Morning Demonstration

Earlier in the day, between 250 and 300 men and women workers, including some of the strikers from the Ching Shing Factory, Yulin Road, had demonstrated in the Settlement and Chinese territory.

These workers congregated at 10.30 a.m. in a vacant ground at the intersection of Ward and Whashing Roads and then proceeded in groups, via Ningkuo Road, towards the Civic Centre. As they passed into Chinese territory they formed a procession and were joined by about 300 other workers, mainly from the silk filatures in Yangtszepoo. It was understood they were headed towards the Mayar Mills, where a "go-slow" strike is in progress, as one of their destinations.

In Chapel, the workers held a meeting in front of the Tomb for the Victims of the May 30 Affair. Demands were drawn up calling for better treatment for the workers and for the prompt release of a striker who had been taken into custody.

The Chinese Police were taking no risks, however, and they promptly interfered and dispersed the gathering.

## Silk Spinners Out On Strike, Thousands Idle

**Hundreds Of Filatures  
In City Close Down;  
12,000 Quit Work**

**LABORERS DEMAND  
INCREASED WAGE**

**Factories Paralyzed;  
Mediation Fails;  
Police Watch**

There is no silk being spun in Shanghai today.

The worst labor strike of the year gripped the Settlement, Nantao and Chapel last night and swarmed over into Frenchtown today. Twelve thousand silk workers are idle; 220 silk mills, factories and workshops are shut down; union leaders are making demands, employers are rejecting them, but no trouble has broken out, and no rioting has occurred.

### More Idle Expected

At 8:30 o'clock last night, the workers of the Foo Yik Silk Mill at 1032 Hart Road left their jobs and set in motion a city-wide strike for better wages and better working conditions. Up to noon today there were known to be 11,944 workers on strike from 220 mills, but this number will probably be increased on the receipt of further reports.

The strike called last night came as a result of the failure of two weeks of protracted negotiations and bickerings between silk employees, employers and the local Tangpu. On March 17, silk workers called a mass meeting on a piece of waste ground, and drew up a set of demands which were presented to silk mill owners. The demands were not met, a long series of negotiations followed, with the Tangpu trying to act as mediator.

### Session Disrupted

Last night, workers decided to call a general strike when a postponed conference broke up without achieving a compromise after 6 p.m.

As a result of this strike, the following conditions prevail:

Stricken Factories		
Settlement		
East Dist.	2000	100
West Dist.	500	7
Int. S. & Rds.	300	6
Frenchtown	1000	20
Nantao	2000	10
Chapel	2000	5

In addition to the above known number of strikers, there are probably several hundred more mill workers who will be affected.

### Higher Wages Wanted

Up until the present time, no outside influences have yet been detected in the strike trouble and it is held that the workers are simply demanding higher wages and better working conditions. There is a union behind the strike that originally is said to have demanded a 10 per cent blanket raise. The management countered with a refusal to grant a raise to those workers receiving over 60 cents a day. This offer was in turn rejected by the workers who are said to have submitted the following schedule for wage increases:

- (1) Those getting below \$1 per day—30 per cent raise.
- (2) Those getting above \$1 per day—15 per cent raise.
- (3) Those getting \$2 per day—10 per cent raise.

### Mediation Fails

Officials of the Bureau of Social Affairs and the local Tangpu who mediated failed to get the two parties to agree on a compromise plan. Negotiations were deadlocked.

Police of the three areas are not on the lookout for any cases of sabotage or any disturbances that might conceivably take place and it is reported that a representative of the Ministry of Industries has arrived in Shanghai to try and settle the situation.

16 1/4

# Trouble For Filatures In Eastern Area

Strikers Throw Stones At Police; Three Are Arrested

CROWD DISPERSES TO CHINESE TERRITORY

Yulin Road, Yangtszepoo Police Keep On Alert Throughout Day

The trouble which had been brewing for the past week in the silk filatures in the Eastern industrial area, came to a head yesterday, with an attempt being made by some 300 workers to hold a meeting on a vacant piece of ground in the Yulin Road Police district in the morning, and the stoning of police officers of Yangtszepoo Police Station in the early afternoon, when they attempted to disperse a crowd of strikers, who gathered outside a filature on Linching Road.

The attempt to hold a meeting on a piece of vacant ground in Ward Road near Whashing Road at about 10.30 a.m. came as an aftermath to the trouble which occurred on Sunday afternoon outside the Ching Shing Factory at Lane 484, Yulin Road, when a detective was injured and one worker arrested.

The incident in the Yangtszepoo district, which occurred at 1 o'clock was of a more serious nature. Here a crowd of about 500 male and female silk filature strikers surrounded the Yuen Ling Filature at 484, Linching Road, with the idea of persuading the workers of the factory to join their union. The management of the factory immediately informed the Yangtszepoo Police and officers rushed to the factory.

In the meantime the 70 male and 50 female workers of the factory pointed out to the crowd outside that they did not wish to join the union. The police then told the crowd to disperse. They refused to do so, saying that their delegate was inside the factory. When it was ascertained that this was not the case, the crowd was again ordered to move. They retreated in the direction of the Chinese territory (Yin Ziang Kong) in the meantime throwing stones and bricks at the police. Officers charged the mob and three men were arrested. They will be charged in court to-morrow.

March To Civic Centre

The crowd which gathered on the piece of vacant ground at Ward Road and Whashing Road in the morning, was much more orderly, and persuasion on the part of the police resulted in the crowd, estimated at about 300, dispersing in small groups. They walked in small groups along Ningtsoo Road into Chinese territory. Once in Chinese territory they formed a procession, and, on being joined by another group of about 200 workers from the Yangtszepoo district, they started their march towards the Civic Centre.

The procession never reached the Civic Centre, but a meeting was held on the way and it was decided to march back into the Settlement and petition the management of the Ching Shing Filature to effect the release of the worker arrested on Sunday afternoon. In the alternative it was decided to march straight to the Yulin Road Police Station and demand that their colleagues be released.

Shortly after the meeting at which this was decided upon, the crowd was dispersed by the Chinese Police. Officers of the Yangtszepoo and Yulin Road Police Station, however, were standing by throughout the day yesterday.

A large number of filatures in the Eastern area have been on strike for about a week. Yesterday, the number of the idle workers swelled due to it being a holiday, all union workers demanding a holiday on the occasion of the anniversary of the 72 Canton Martyrs of 1911.

Further disturbances are hourly expected in the Eastern area, pending settlement of the whole question. A set of demands have been presented by striking workers, but they are considered to be utterly out of the question.

SI  
DOR  
5/7

## Mill Workers Dispersed By Police Forces

### Called Out To Break Up Demonstrations; Bricks Thrown

Several minor disturbances featured the situation on the Shanghai labor front with trouble in the silk filatures of the Settlement holding most of the spotlight. Two demonstrations occurred, one on a vacant lot at the corner of Ward and Whashing Road, and the other at the Yuen Ling Silk Filature, 484 Lincheng Road. Workers stoned the police during the latter affair.

At 10.30 a.m., about 300 men and women workers of the Ching Shing Silk Factory, 484 Yalu Road, who went on strike Sunday, gathered on a vacant piece of land off Ward Road near the corner of Whashing Road and attempted to hold an indignation meeting. They were dispersed by the police and moved off into Chapel where they were joined by workers from other filatures.

In Chapel, the group proceeded to parade up and down the streets, shouting slogans as well as expressions of their opinion of the filature owners. The Bureau of Police went into action and dispersed them. No injuries were re-

ported either in the Settlement or Chapel.

Shortly after 1 p.m., the dispersed workers managed to collect together again in a body and marched to the Yuen Ling Silk Filature, 484 Lincheng Road, and surrounded the place. The idea was to create a sympathy strike.

Police reserves from the Yangtze Station were rushed to the scene and encountered difficulty in breaking up the strikers. The latter were prepared for the officers and let loose with a barrage of stones, bricks and other missiles. No serious injuries were reported on the side of the police.

The officers moved quickly down the stones and dispersed the mob in short order. Three workers, believed to be agitators, were arrested.

Conditions at the Shing Yue Cotton Mills, No. 1 and No. 2, on Robison Road, scene of rioting last Thursday, remained quiet yesterday. The mills were reopened in the morning and all workers were back on the job.

20190

## Two Men Injured As Strikers Rush Yangtszepoo Mill

Office Damaged by Crowd  
Seeking Manager

### POLICE QUICKLY CLEAR SILK FACTORY

Trouble broke out again on Shanghai's labour front yesterday afternoon when the striking workers of the Ching Shing Silk Factory, in Yangtszepoo, tangled with members of the staff and the Police in the compound of the establishment.

The disturbance, in which two men were so seriously injured that they had to be sent to hospital, started at about 3 o'clock. At that time some 150 of the strikers, reinforced by the leader element, went to the factory premises in Lane 494, Yulin Road, and attempted to enter the compound in order to speak to the manager. Members of the staff tried to prevent them from entering and at the same time telephoned for Police assistance.

A fight ensued in the course of which a foreman employed at the mill and a Chinese detective-constable from the Yulin Road Station were beaten badly, while others suffered less serious injuries. Some damage was caused to the windows and furniture of the office. A Police party from Yulin Road finally dispersed the crowd and cleared the premises, arresting one man as a leader of the disturbance. Quiet was quickly restored and a Police watch placed about the mill.

The injured foreman was taken to the Sacred Heart Hospital and the Chinese detective to the Police Hospital.

#### Meeting Frustrated

Later in the afternoon the workers attempted to hold a meeting on vacant property at the intersection of Whansing and Ward Roads. Another turn-out of Police was made from the Yulin Road Station, and the crowd dispersed without hesitation.

The situation was quiet last night. At the Shag Yee Cotton Mills, where a lock-out exists pending the outcome of negotiations between disgruntled workers and the management, no developments were reported yesterday. A disturbance occurred on Thursday morning when a mob of 600 forced the gate of the No. 7 Mill at S Robinson Road, but yesterday both mills were quiet.

D.S. McKeown.

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DHR

29/3



20914

THE CHINA PRESS, MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1937

# WORKERS STORM MILL, 2 HURT

## Plant Dispute Leads To Riot; Strikes Continue

Labor trouble among Shanghai's mill workers again flared up in violence yesterday when some 150 striking employees of the Ching Shing Silk Weaving Factory, 444 Yulin Road, stormed the plant and attacked police officers stationed on the premises.

As a result of the melee, one Chinese detective and one mill foreman were slightly injured. A worker was arrested during the riot.

The storming of the silk weaving factory occurred shortly after 3 o'clock when some 150 men tried to enter the mill and see its management. When they were barred from entering, the workers attacked the officers. Later they rushed

into the compound and smashed up part of the office furniture.

Police officers rushed from the Yulin Road station dispersed the mob before further damage could be done. Policemen were posted outside the mill last night to prevent any further violence.

Less than an hour after the riot, a large group of workers gathered at a vacant lot at the corner of Whaashing and Ward Roads for a meeting. They were dispersed by police officers.

Meantime, labor disturbance among workers of other local mills remained unsettled yesterday. Employees of the Mayar No. 10 Mill in Chapei were still out on strike

despite mediation of the Bureau of Social Affairs and Kuomintang officials.

In Nantso, workers of three mills were on strike yesterday following a demonstration early in the morning. Reports last night stated that the workers at these mills are preparing to resume work this morning.

At the Shing Yue Cotton Mill, Robinson Road, where workers staged a riot Thursday, operation is slated to resume this morning. The striking workers decided to call off the walk-out following a tentative settlement worked out by Kuomintang and Bureau of Social Welfare representatives.